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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK

AND FRIENDS

Wintertime—and Christmas!—is upon us once again. And what better Christmas treat can we give to Disney Duck fans than a reprint of Carl Barks' "Wintertime Wager," which is the first appearance ever of Donald's arch-rival, Gladstone Gander! A story that, coincidentally, takes place in the Winter.

Gladstone is the epitome of the character that everyone loves to hate. Even though he is not evil or a villain, he is irritatingly lucky and he knows it and is smug about it. That is truly what Donald (and we readers) find so irritating about him. Even Barks commented, on different occasions, that Gladstone reminded him of various annoying people he had known through the years who always seemed to come out on top of any given situation, no matter how badly they handled the circumstances. Barks nevertheless used Gladstone quite often in his stories, the lucky Gander being the perfect counterpoint to Donald's perennial bad luck.

It's interesting to note that you find no reference to Gladstone's luck in the story at hand. In this, and in the first few Gladstone 10-pagers, he was featured merely as Donald's rival, primarily for Daisy's affections. This role continued, but Barks shortly hit upon the notion of Gladstone's super luck, a brilliant ploy that has been the basis for numerous hilarious plotlines by Barks and others ever since.

The Mickey offering this issue is from talented Arizona scribe Donald D. Markstein and is a send-up of the time honored comic convention of having someone inherit a skunk farm—with typical Markstein flair.

Big Brain Blowout, with art by Mau and Bas Heymans, wraps this issue. If you're not a fan of theirs yet, you should be!

nomscans HaCsA — *John Clark*

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **Story & Art:** Carl Barks
WINTERTIME WAGER *(WDCS 88, January 1948)*
Color: Susan Daigle-Leach

Mickey Mouse **Story:** Donald D. Markstein
UNCLE ELVIS' RANCH **Art:** Rodriques
Color: Egmont & Marie Javins
Lettering: Willie Schubert

Donald Duck **Story:** M. Heymans & K. DeGraff
BIG BRAIN BLOWOUT **Dialogue & Lettering:** David Gerstein
Art: M. Heymans & B. Heymans
Color: Janice Miller

Front cover art by Daniel Branca, color by Susan Daigle-Leach & Gary Leach

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF DECEMBER 8TH
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Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK and FRIENDS

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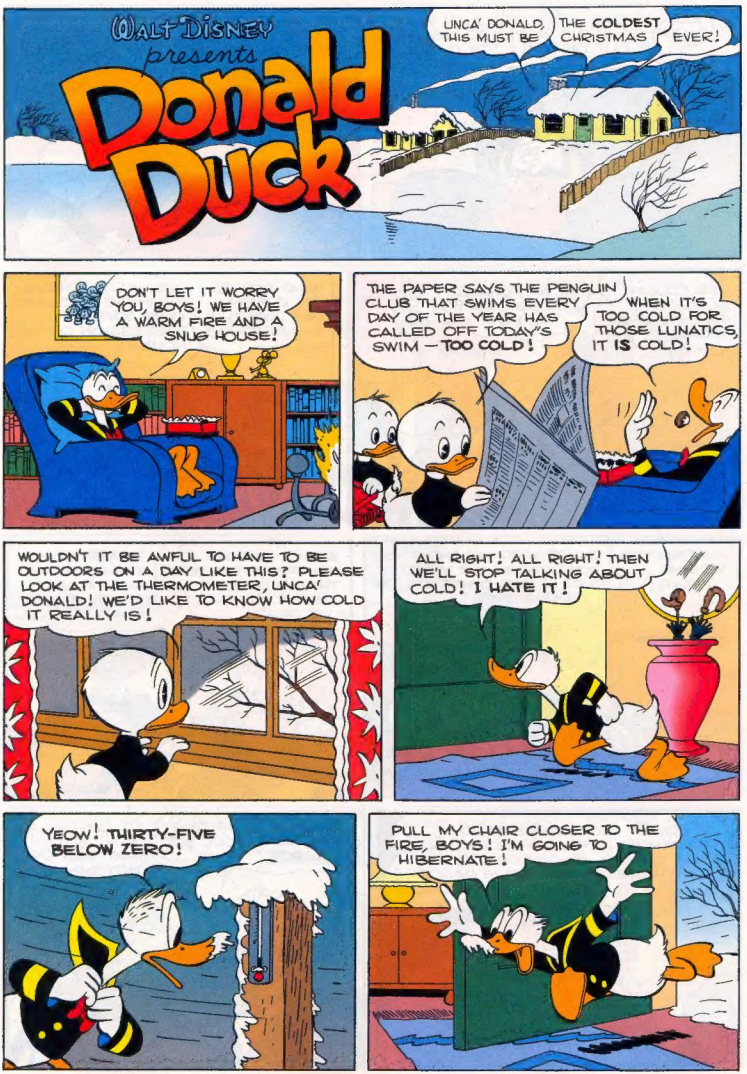
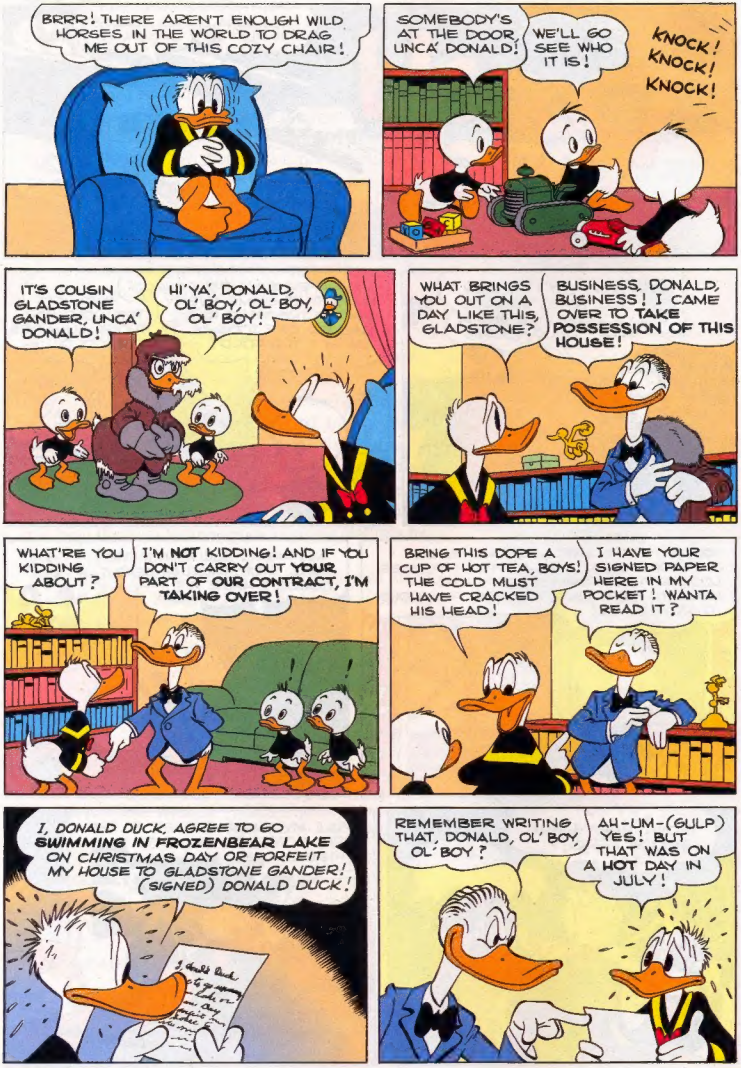
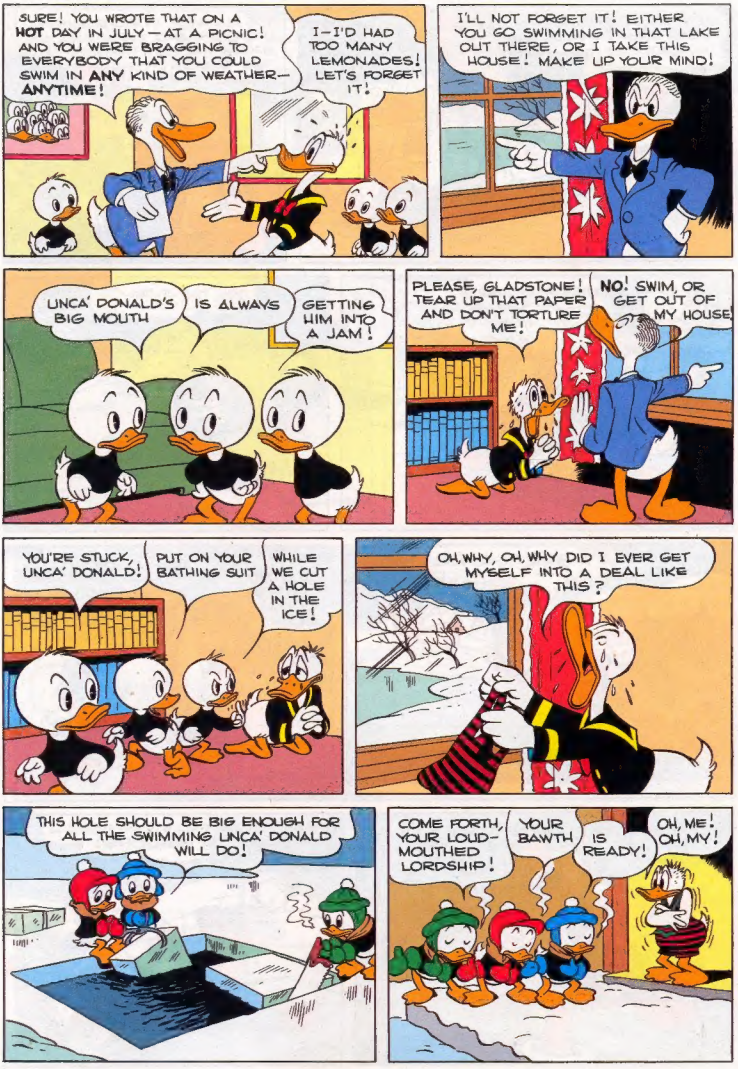
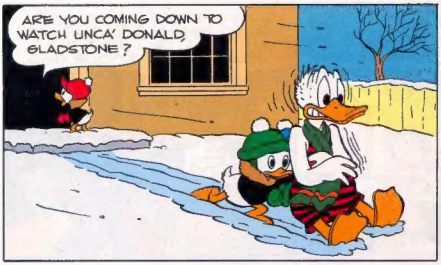
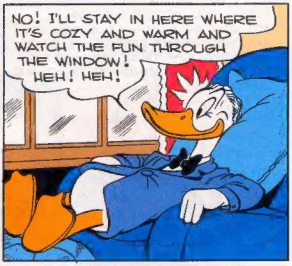
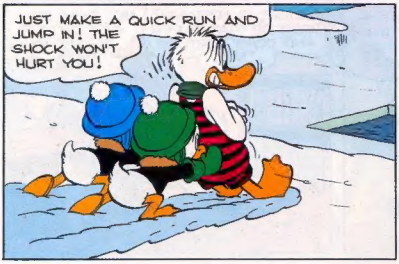

WALT DISNEY
presents
Donald Duck
UNCA' DONALD, THIS MUST BE THE COLDEST CHRISTMAS EVER!
DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, BOYS! WE HAVE A WARM FIRE AND A SNUG HOUSE!
THE PAPER SAYS THE PENGUIN CLUB THAT SWIMS EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR HAS CALLED OFF TODAY'S SWIM — TOO COLD!
WHEN IT'S TOO COLD FOR THOSE LUNATICS, IT IS COLD!
WOULDN'T IT BE AWFUL TO HAVE TO BE OUTDOORS ON A DAY LIKE THIS? PLEASE LOOK AT THE THERMOMETER, UNCA' DONALD! WE'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW COLD IT REALLY IS!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! THEN WE'LL STOP TALKING ABOUT COLD! I HATE IT!
YEOW! THIRTY-FIVE BELOW ZERO!
PULL MY CHAIR CLOSER TO THE FIRE, BOYS! I'M GOING TO HIBERNATE!

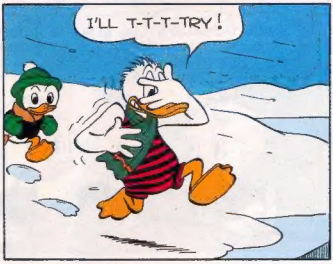

BRRR! THERE AREN'T ENOUGH WILD HORSES IN THE WORLD TO DRAG ME OUT OF THIS COZY CHAIR!
SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR, UNCA' DONALD!
WE'LL GO SEE WHO IT IS!
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
IT'S COUSIN GLADSTONE GANDER, UNCA' DONALD!
HI'YA', DONALD, OL' BOY, OL' BOY, OL' BOY!
WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT ON A DAY LIKE THIS, GLADSTONE?
BUSINESS, DONALD, BUSINESS! I CAME OVER TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS HOUSE!
WHAT'RE YOU KIDDING ABOUT?
I'M NOT KIDDING! AND IF YOU DON'T CARRY OUT YOUR PART OF OUR CONTRACT, I'M TAKING OVER!
BRING THIS DOPE A CUP OF HOT TEA, BOYS! THE COLD MUST HAVE CRACKED HIS HEAD!
I HAVE YOUR SIGNED PAPER HERE IN MY POCKET! WANTA READ IT?
I, DONALD DUCK, AGREE TO GO SWIMMING IN FROZENBEAR LAKE ON CHRISTMAS DAY OR FORFEIT MY HOUSE TO GLADSTONE GANDER! (SIGNED) DONALD DUCK!
REMEMBER WRITING THAT, DONALD, OL' BOY, OL' BOY?
AH-UM-(GULP) YES! BUT THAT WAS ON A HOT DAY IN JULY!

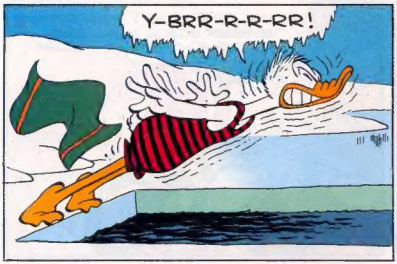

SURE! YOU WROTE THAT ON A HOT DAY IN JULY—AT A PICNIC! AND YOU WERE BRAGGING TO EVERYBODY THAT YOU COULD SWIM IN ANY KIND OF WEATHER—ANYTIME!
I—I'D HAD TOO MANY LEMONADES! LET'S FORGET IT!
I'LL NOT FORGET IT! EITHER YOU GO SWIMMING IN THAT LAKE OUT THERE, OR I TAKE THIS HOUSE! MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
UNCA' DONALD'S BIG MOUTH
IS ALWAYS
GETTING HIM INTO A JAM!
PLEASE, GLADSTONE! TEAR UP THAT PAPER AND DON'T TORTURE ME!
NO! SWIM, OR GET OUT OF MY HOUSE
YOU'RE STUCK, UNCA' DONALD!
PUT ON YOUR BATHING SUIT
WHILE WE CUT A HOLE IN THE ICE!
OH, WHY, OH, WHY DID I EVER GET MYSELF INTO A DEAL LIKE THIS?
THIS HOLE SHOULD BE BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL THE SWIMMING UNCA' DONALD WILL DO!
COME FORTH, YOUR LOUD-MOUTHED LORDSHIP!
YOUR BAWTH
IS READY!
OH, ME! OH, MY!

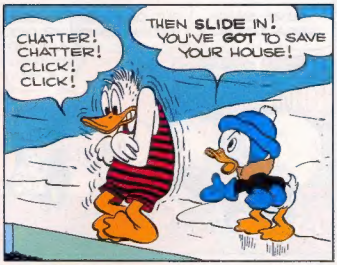

ARE YOU COMING DOWN TO WATCH UNCA' DONALD, GLADSTONE?

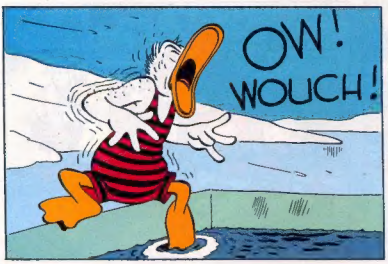

NO! I'LL STAY IN HERE WHERE IT'S COZY AND WARM AND WATCH THE FUN THROUGH THE WINDOW! HEH! HEH!

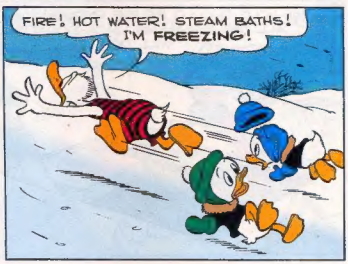

JUST MAKE A QUICK RUN AND JUMP IN! THE SHOCK WON'T HURT YOU!

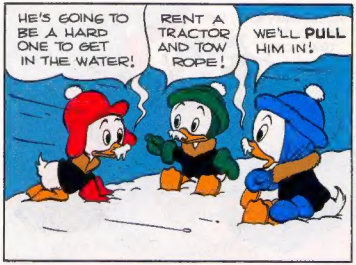

I'LL T-T-T-TRY!

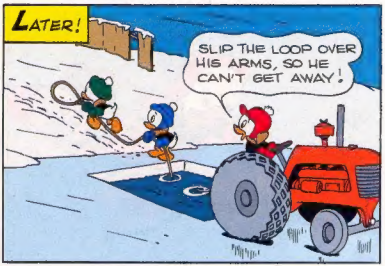

Y-BRR-R-R-RR!

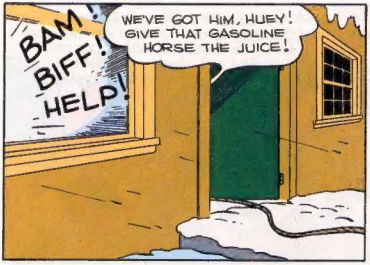

CHATTER! CHATTER! CLICK! CLICK!
THEN SLIDE IN! YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE YOUR HOUSE!

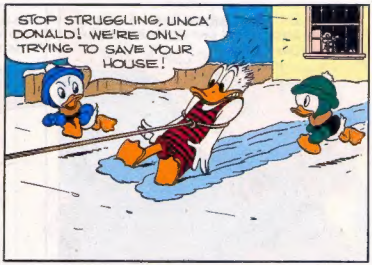

OW! WOUCH!

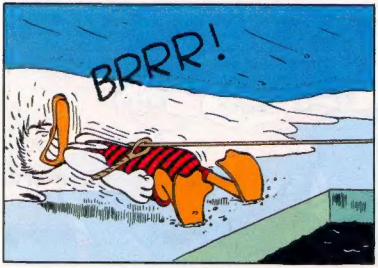

FIRE! HOT WATER! STEAM BATHS! I'M FREEZING!

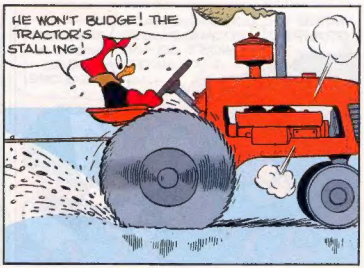

HE'S GOING TO BE A HARD ONE TO GET IN THE WATER!
RENT A TRACTOR AND TOW ROPE!
WE'LL PULL HIM IN!

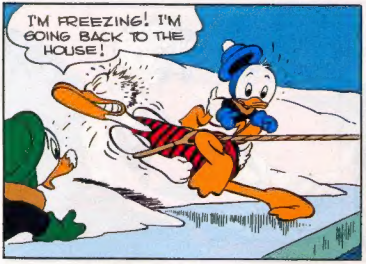

LATER!
SLIP THE LOOP OVER HIS ARMS, SO HE CAN'T GET AWAY!

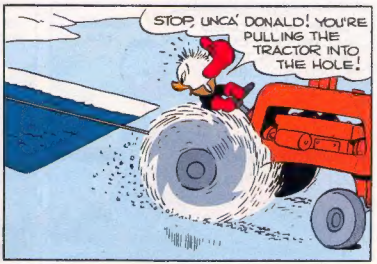

BAM!
BIFF!
HELP!
WE'VE GOT HIM, HUEY! GIVE THAT GASOLINE HORSE THE JUICE!

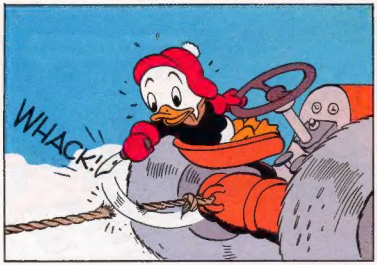

STOP STRUGGLING, UNCA' DONALD! WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO SAVE YOUR HOUSE!

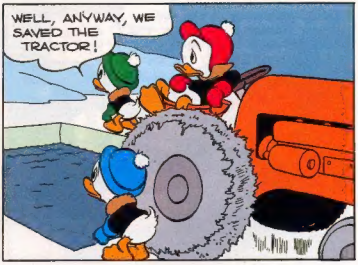

BRRR!

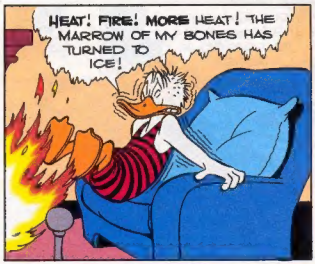

HE WON'T BUDGE! THE TRACTOR'S STALLING!

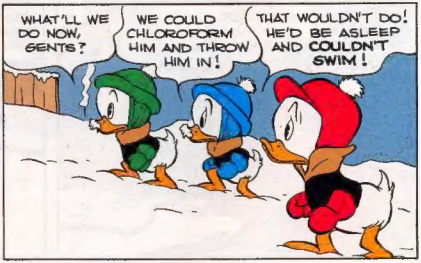

I'M FREEZING! I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE!

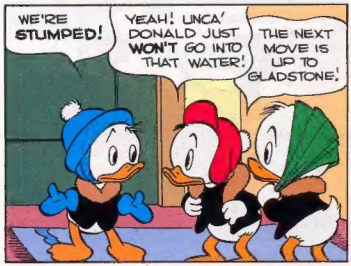

STOP, UNCA' DONALD! YOU'RE PULLING THE TRACTOR INTO THE HOLE!

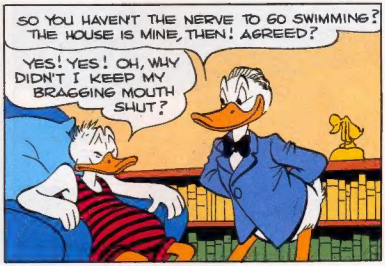

WHACK!!

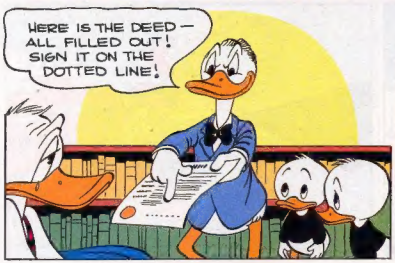

WELL, ANYWAY, WE SAVED THE TRACTOR!

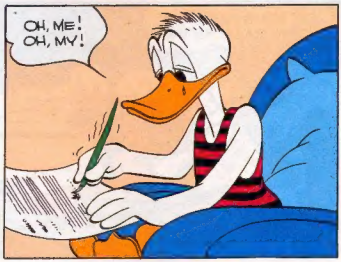

HEAT! FIRE! MORE HEAT! THE MARROW OF MY BONES HAS TURNED TO ICE!

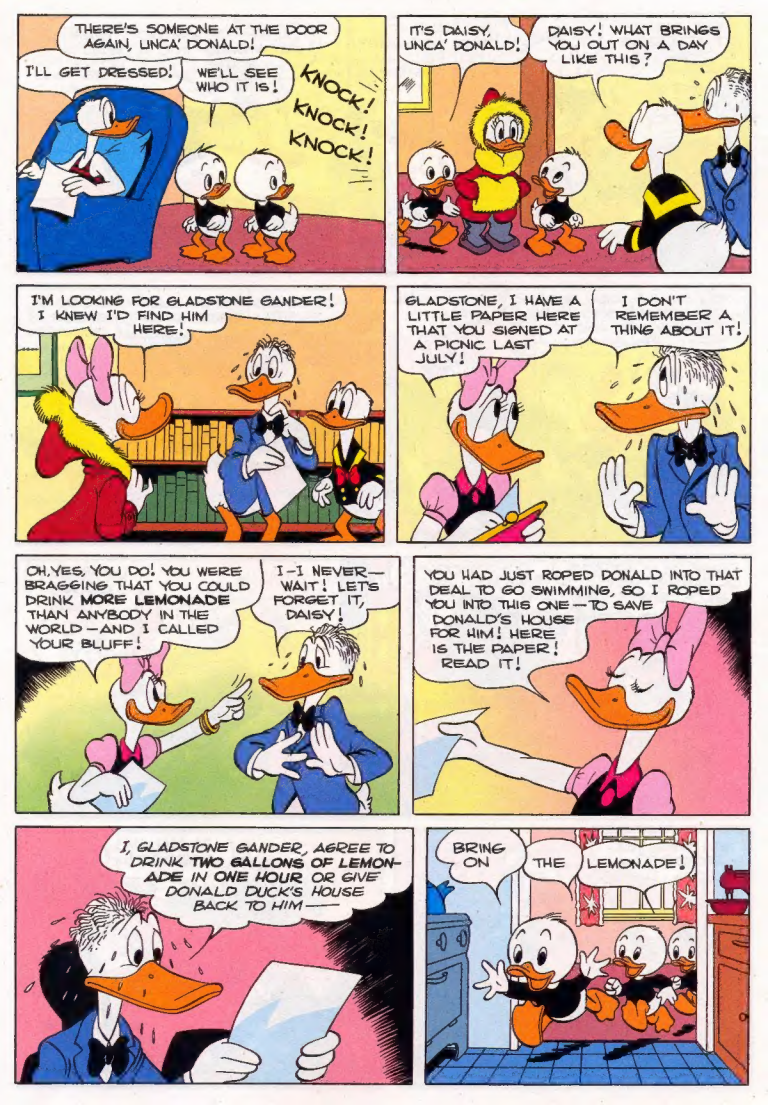

WHAT'LL WE DO NOW, GENTS?
WE COULD CHLOROFORM HIM AND THROW HIM IN!
THAT WOULDN'T DO! HE'D BE ASLEEP AND COULDN'T SWIM!

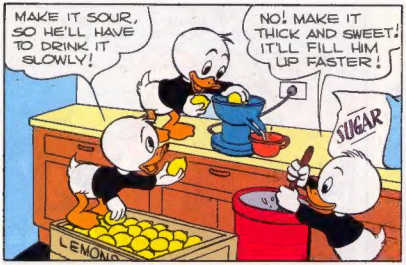

WE'RE STUMPED!
YEAH! UNCA' DONALD JUST WON'T GO INTO THAT WATER!
THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO GLADSTONE.


SO YOU HAVEN'T THE NERVE TO GO SWIMMING? THE HOUSE IS MINE, THEN! AGREED?
YES! YES! OH, WHY DIDN'T I KEEP MY BRAGGING MOUTH SHUT?

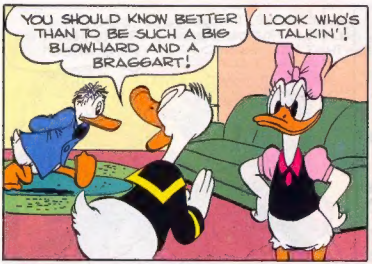

HERE IS THE DEED — ALL FILLED OUT! SIGN IT ON THE DOTTED LINE!

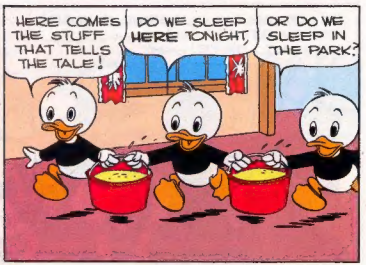

OH, ME! OH, MY!

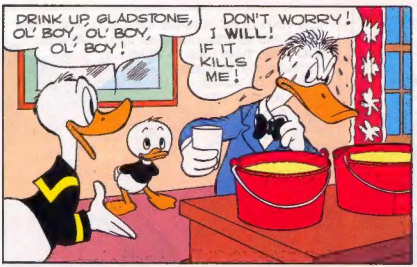

THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR AGAIN, UNCA' DONALD!
I'LL GET DRESSED!
WE'LL SEE WHO IT IS!
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
IT'S DAISY, UNCA' DONALD!
DAISY! WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT ON A DAY LIKE THIS?
I'M LOOKING FOR GLADSTONE GANDER! I KNEW I'D FIND HIM HERE!
GLADSTONE, I HAVE A LITTLE PAPER HERE THAT YOU SIGNED AT A PICNIC LAST JULY!
I DON'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT IT!
OH, YES, YOU DO! YOU WERE BRAGGING THAT YOU COULD DRINK MORE LEMONADE THAN ANYBODY IN THE WORLD — AND I CALLED YOUR BLUFF!
I-I NEVER— WAIT! LETS FORGET IT, DAISY!
YOU HAD JUST ROPED DONALD INTO THAT DEAL TO GO SWIMMING, SO I ROPED YOU INTO THIS ONE — TO SAVE DONALD'S HOUSE FOR HIM! HERE IS THE PAPER! READ IT!
I, GLADSTONE GANDER, AGREE TO DRINK TWO GALLONS OF LEMONADE IN ONE HOUR OR GIVE DONALD DUCK'S HOUSE BACK TO HIM——
BRING ON THE LEMONADE!

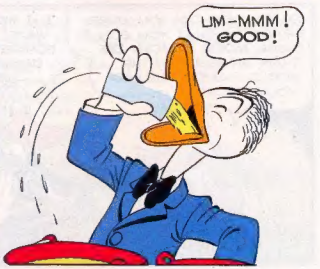

MAKE IT SOUR, SO HE'LL HAVE TO DRINK IT SLOWLY!
NO! MAKE IT THICK AND SWEET! IT'LL FILL HIM UP FASTER!
SUGAR
LEMONS

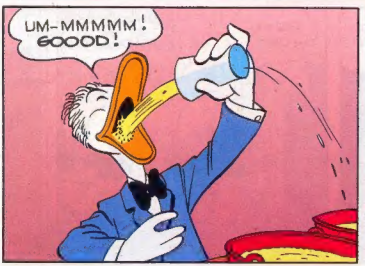
OH, WHY? OH, WHY DID I EVER GET MYSELF INTO A DEAL LIKE THIS?

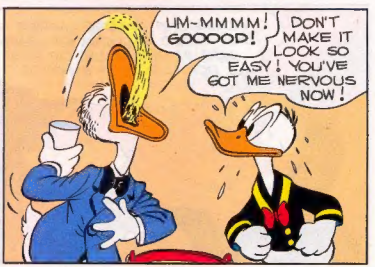

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO BE SUCH A BIG BLOWHARD AND A BRAGGART!
LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'!

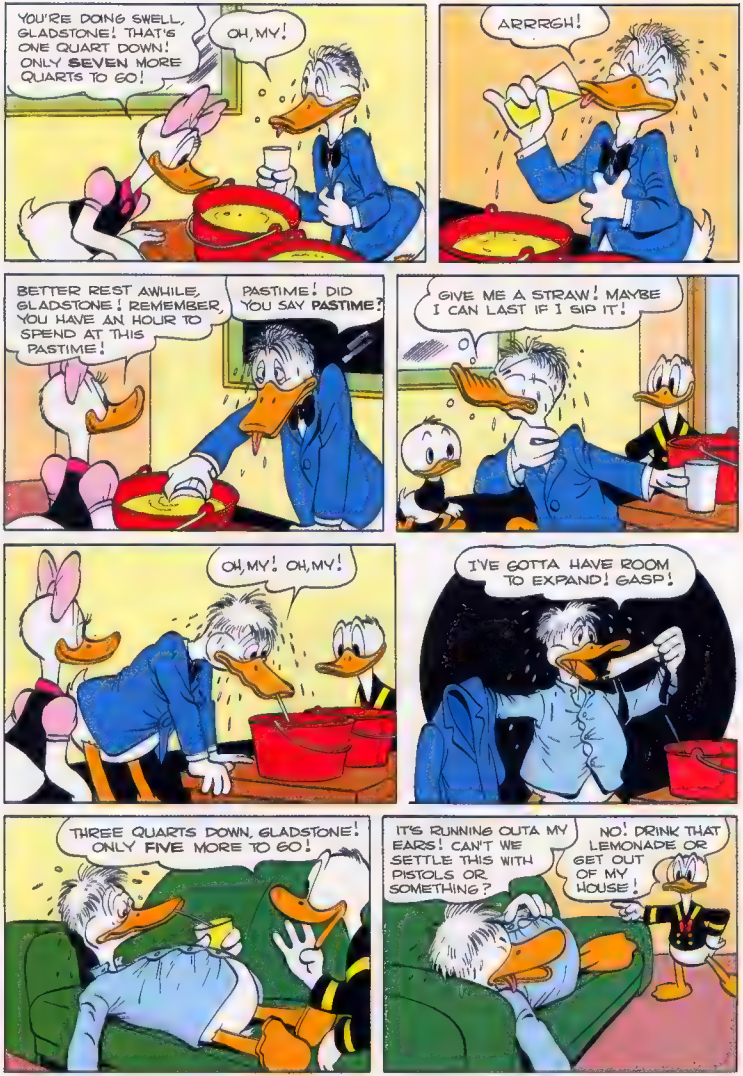

HERE COMES THE STUFF THAT TELLS THE TALE!
DO WE SLEEP HERE TONIGHT,
OR DO WE SLEEP IN THE PARK?

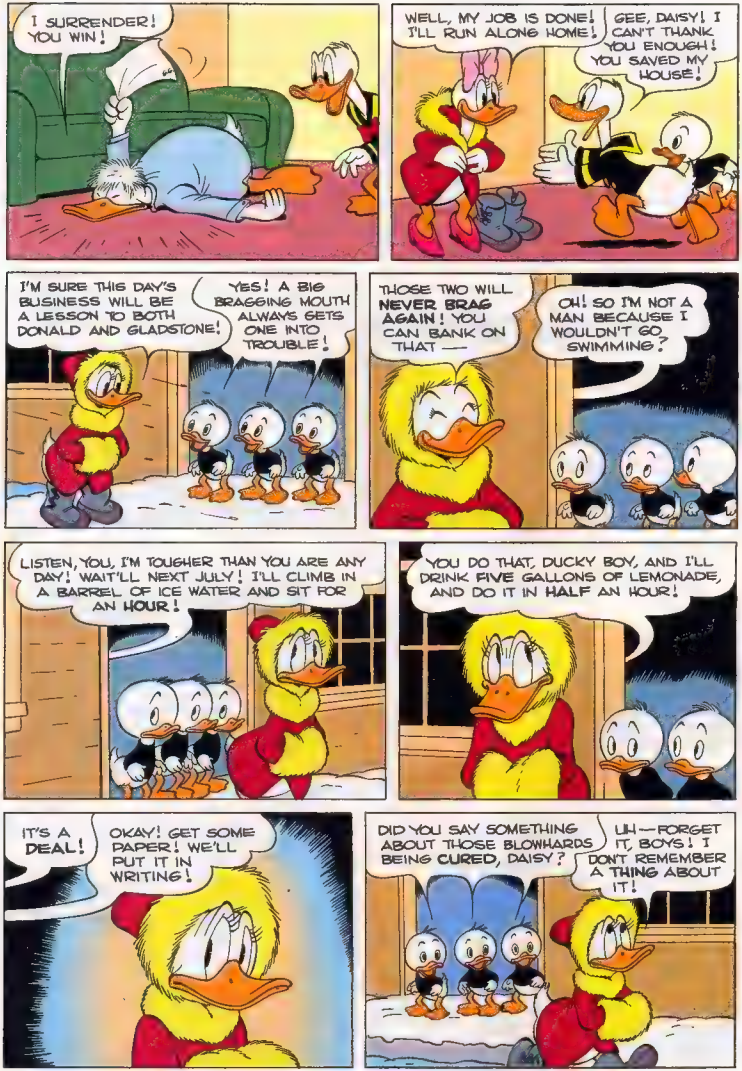

DRINK UP, GLADSTONE, OL' BOY, OL' BOY, OL' BOY!
DON'T WORRY! I WILL! IF IT KILLS ME!


UM-MMM! GOOD!

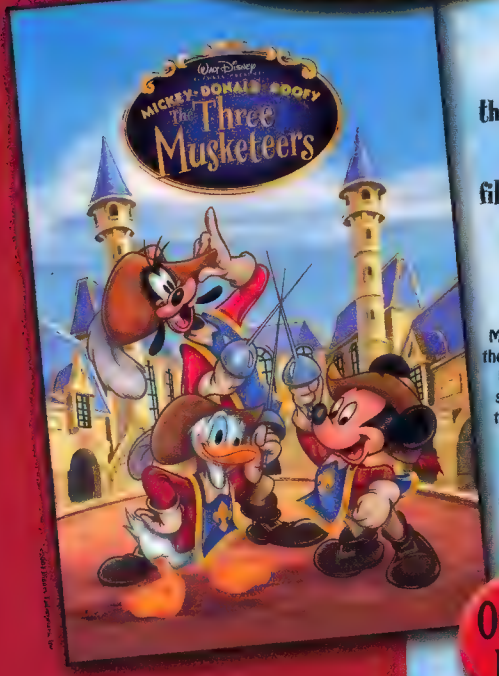

UM-MMMMM! GOOOD!


UM-MMMM! GOOOOD!
DON'T MAKE IT LOOK SO EASY! YOU'VE GOT ME NERVOUS NOW!


YOU'RE DOING SWELL, GLADSTONE! THAT'S ONE QUART DOWN! ONLY SEVEN MORE QUARTS TO GO!
OH, MY!
ARRRGH!
BETTER REST AWHILE, GLADSTONE! REMEMBER, YOU HAVE AN HOUR TO SPEND AT THIS PASTIME!
PASTIME! DID YOU SAY PASTIME?
GIVE ME A STRAW! MAYBE I CAN LAST IF I SIP IT!
OH, MY! OH, MY!
I'VE GOTTA HAVE ROOM TO EXPAND! GASP!
THREE QUARTS DOWN, GLADSTONE! ONLY FIVE MORE TO GO!
IT'S RUNNING OUTA MY EARS! CAN'T WE SETTLE THIS WITH PISTOLS OR SOMETHING?
NO! DRINK THAT LEMONADE OR GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!


I SURRENDER! YOU WIN!
WELL, MY JOB IS DONE! I'LL RUN ALONG HOME!
GEE, DAISY! I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH! YOU SAVED MY HOUSE!
I'M SURE THIS DAY'S BUSINESS WILL BE A LESSON TO BOTH DONALD AND GLADSTONE!
YES! A BIG BRAGGING MOUTH ALWAYS GETS ONE INTO TROUBLE!
THOSE TWO WILL NEVER BRAG AGAIN! YOU CAN BANK ON THAT —
OH! SO I'M NOT A MAN BECAUSE I WOULDN'T GO SWIMMING?
LISTEN, YOU, I'M TOUGHER THAN YOU ARE ANY DAY! WAIT'LL NEXT JULY! I'LL CLIMB IN A BARREL OF ICE WATER AND SIT FOR AN HOUR!
YOU DO THAT, DUCKY BOY, AND I'LL DRINK FIVE GALLONS OF LEMONADE, AND DO IT IN HALF AN HOUR!
IT'S A DEAL!
OKAY! GET SOME PAPER! WE'LL PUT IT IN WRITING!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE BLOWHARDS BEING CURED, DAISY?
UH — FORGET IT, BOYS! I DON'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT IT!

One for all and all for fun with Disney



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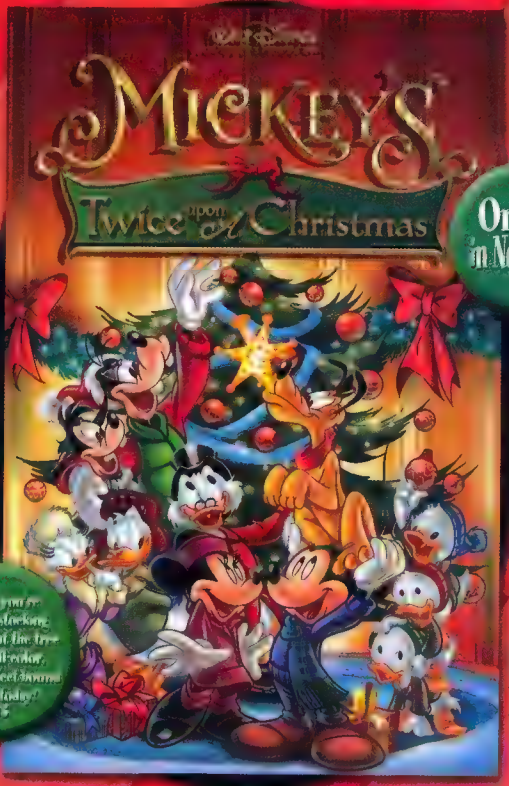
Walt Disney
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Twice Upon a Christmas
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Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas is the perfect finishing touch to any Yuletide holiday!
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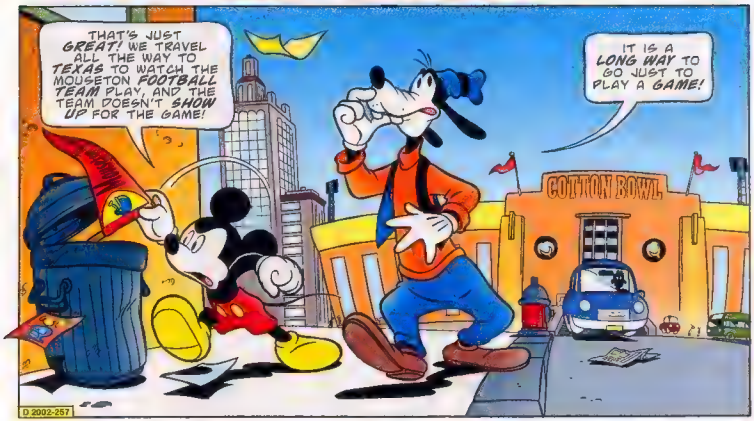
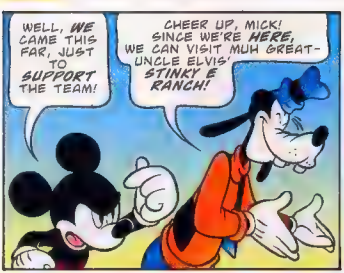
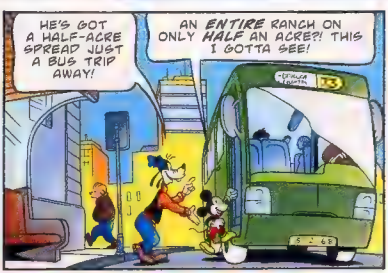
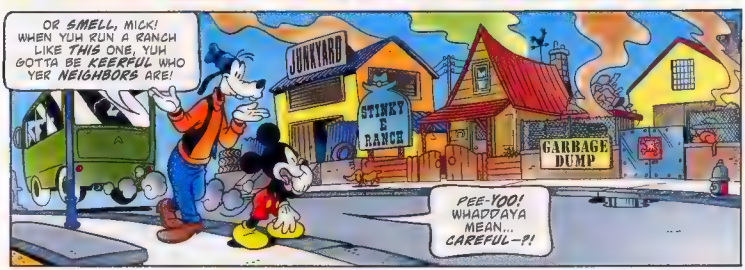
Walt Disney's MICKEY MOUSE in Uncle Elvis' Ranch


THAT'S JUST GREAT! WE TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO TEXAS TO WATCH THE MOUSETON FOOTBALL TEAM PLAY, AND THE TEAM DOESN'T SHOW UP FOR THE GAME!
IT IS A LONG WAY TO GO JUST TO PLAY A GAME!
COTTON BOWL
D 2002-257


WELL, WE CAME THIS FAR, JUST TO SUPPORT THE TEAM!
CHEER UP, MICK! SINCE WE'RE HERE, WE CAN VISIT MUH GREAT-UNCLE ELVIS' STINKY E RANCH!

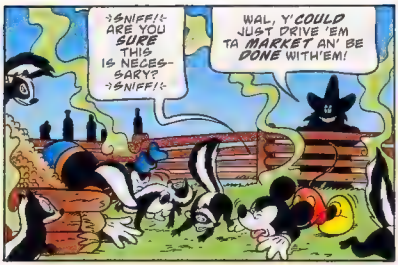


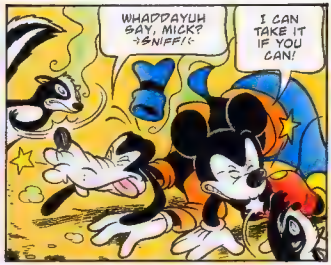

OR SMELL, MICK! WHEN YUH RUN A RANCH LIKE THIS ONE, YUH GOTTA BE KEERFUL WHO YER NEIGHBORS ARE!
JUNKYARD
STINKY E RANCH
GARBAGE DUMP
PEE-YOO! WHADDAYA MEAN... CAREFUL—?!

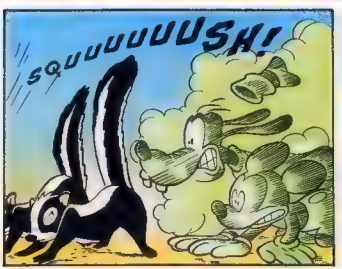
AND :SNIFF-SNIFF!: WHADDAYA MEAN SMELL?
HOWDY, PARDNER! I'M A-LOOKIN' FER MUH GREAT-UNCLE ELVIS!
OLD MAN GOOF? HE, UH... AIN'T HERE!
RECKON I'LL WAIT TILL HE GITS BACK!
Y'CAIN'T DO THAT! I MEAN, UH—
ELVIS AIN'T GONNA GIT BACK! HE'S PASSED ON TO THAT BIG SKUNK LAND IN THE SKY!
GAWRSH! I'M SORRY I MISSED HIM!
THERE'S NO NEED TO CALL HIM A SKUNK, MISTER! HE CAN'T HAVE BEEN AS... UH, STINKY AS... AS...
INTENDIN' NO DISRESPECT, PODNER! AH WAS REFERRIN' TO HIS OCCUPATION!
SKUNKS WERE HIS JOB?! YOU DON'T MEAN...
O' COURSE! YUH DIDN'T THINK MUH UNCLE COULD RUN A CATTLE RANCH ON A HALF-ACRE, DID YUH?
:GASP!:
THE STINKY E IS A SKUNK RANCH!

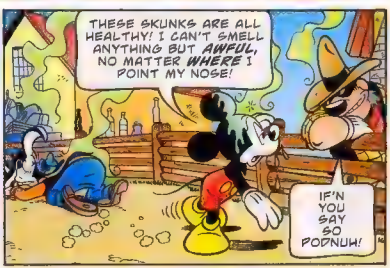
SO YOU'RE... WHAT? A SKUNK-HAND?
NO, SUH! REX RAWHIDE— ELVIS' LAWYER! JUST SMELL SKUNKY ON ACCOUNT O' A MISHAP WITH TH' LIVESTOCK!
AS ELVIS WAS FER UNCLE, AH RECKON YOU'RE HIS HEIR!
GAWRSH! I'M A SKUNK MAGNATE!
WELL... AHEM! WAH'M GONNA CLOSE TH' RANCH, NATURALLY! ONLY A GOOF WOULD WANT TO RUN A SKUNK RANCH!
AS ELVIS' HEIR, THOUGH, YOU CAN DRIVE TH' FINAL SKUNKS TUH MARKET! I WAS PREPARIN' TA DO THAT TODAY!
WELL, DON'T YOU BOTHER, REX! I'D LIKE TA STAY HERE AN' KEEP THUH RANCH OPEN!
!
AHEM! UH... YOU LOOK LIKE Y' HAVE SOME SENSE! TALK YER FRIEND INTO LETTIN' ME CLOSE THUH PLACE!
HUH?
ACTUALLY, REX, I'D LIKE TO HELP GOOFY RUN THE RANCH!
GOOD FER YOU, MICK!
$#-W-$!! DAGNAB IT!
WHY SO ANGRY? SURELY, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO YOU!
I, UH— JUST LIKE IT BETTER WHEN FOLKS TAKE MUH EXCELLENT ADVICE!
SKUNK CABBAGE
SKUNK CABBAGE
IF Y'ALL ARE GONNA RANCH SKUNKS, YUH'LL NEED SKUNK RANCHIN' ADVICE! FOLLER ME!

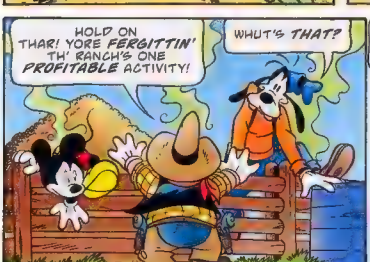
TH' MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TA LOVE YER SKUNKS! GET IN THERE AN PET 'EM AN' HUG 'EM AN' CUDDLE 'EM!
GAWRSH!
UH-OH!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS NECESSARY?
MAH DEAR FRIEND ELVIS ALWAYS SAID...Y'CAIN'T LOVE A SKUNK TOO MUCH!
SQUUUUUUSH!
EVEN WHEN THEY LOVE YOU BACK?
WAL, SEEIN' AS HOW YORE NEW AT THIS, AH GUESS Y'CAN COME BACK TO THIS PART LATER!
HOLD ON THAR! NEXT Y'GOTTA MAKE SURE EACH SKUNK IS HEALTHY!
HOW DO WE DO THAT?
JES' G.VE E'M A LITTLE SNIFF! TH' HEALTHY ONES SMELL WORSE!
SO IF THEY SMELL GOOD THEY'RE REJECTS?
THAT'D BE ONE WAY OF PUTTIN' IT! LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH... AH MEAN, WHEN YUH'VE CHECKED EM' ALL!

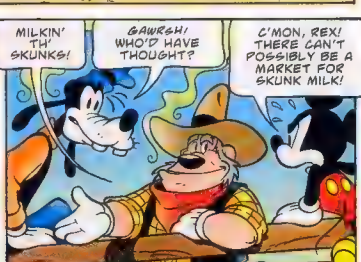

:SNIFF!: ARE YOU SURE THIS IS NECES-SARY? :SNIFF!:
WAL, Y'COULD JUST DRIVE 'EM TA MARKET AN' BE DONE WITH'EM!

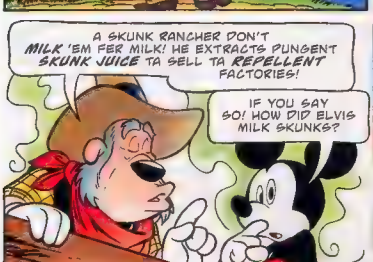

WHADDAYUH SAY, MICK? :SNIFF!:
I CAN TAKE IT IF YOU CAN!


SQUUUUUUSH!


THESE SKUNKS ARE ALL HEALTHY! I CAN'T SMELL ANYTHING BUT AWFUL, NO MATTER WHERE I POINT MY NOSE!
IF'N YOU SAY SO PODNUH!


HOLD ON THAR! YORE FERGITTIN' TH' RANCH'S ONE PROFITABLE ACTIVITY!
WHUT'S THAT?

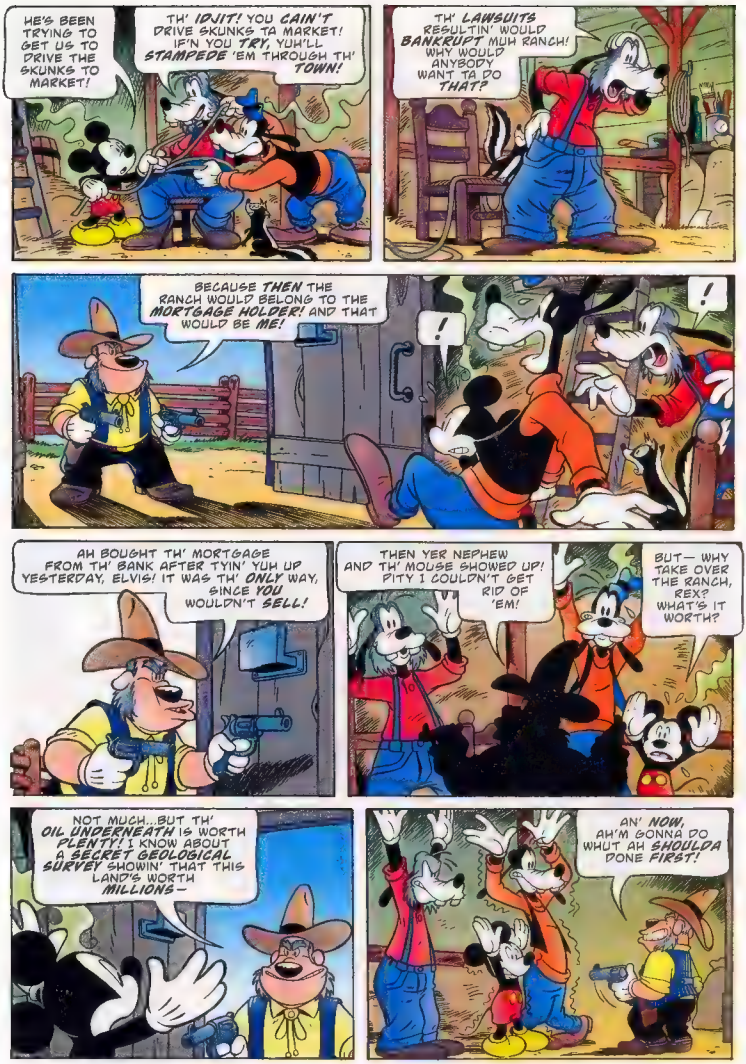

MILKIN' TH' SKUNKS!
GAWRSH! WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT?
C'MON, REX! THERE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE A MARKET FOR SKUNK MILK!

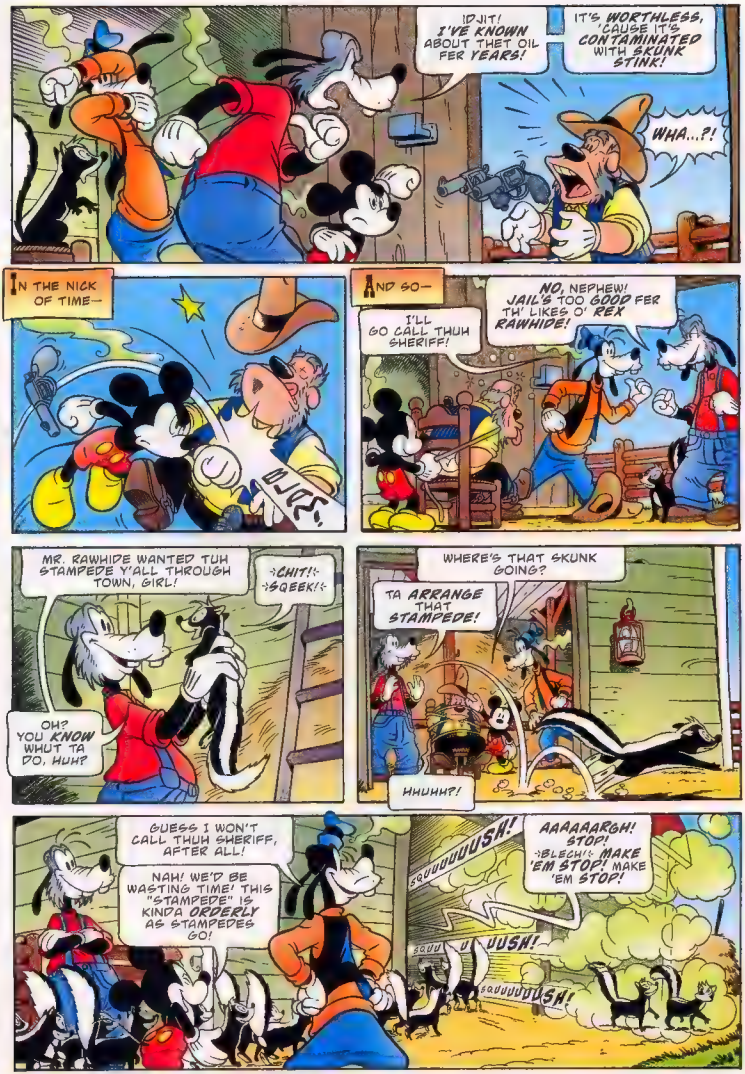

A SKUNK RANCHER DON'T MILK 'EM FER MILK! HE EXTRACTS PUNGENT SKUNK JUICE TA SELL TA REPELLENT FACTORIES!
IF YOU SAY SO! HOW DID ELVIS MILK SKUNKS?

HE NEVER TOLD ME! BUT AH'M SURE YOU CLEVER BOYS KIN FIGGER IT OUT!
NOW IF YUH'LL EXCUSE ME, AH HAVE PRESSIN' MATTERS TA ATTEND TO!

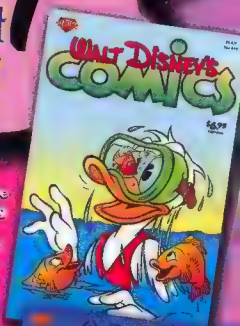
I'M BEGINNIN' TA WONDER IF SKUNK RANCHIN' IS ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TA BE!
IT SURE IS LIVING DOWN TO MY EXPECTATIONS!
UH...HIYA, MR. POLECAT! WANT TO FILL THIS BOTTLE?
GOOFY! HELP ME OUT!
SHORE THING, MICKEY!
SQUIRT
WHADDAYA SAY...?GLUB!(- WE CLEAN UP? I'M THROUGH OFFENDING SKUNKS!
YEAH!.. MAKE PEACE... NOT A STINK!
PLOP

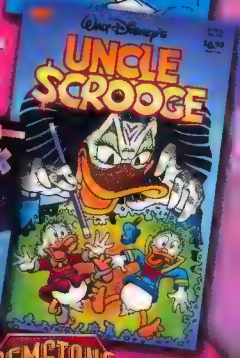
I LIKE ANIMALS, MICKEY! AN' REX'S METHODS SEEM PRE-PLANNED TA BOTHER THEM!
I DON'T TRUST REX! IT'S LIKE HE WANTS US TO GIVE UP AND DRIVE THE SKUNKS TO MARKET!
HMPH! HE'S BEATEN ME TO TAKING A SHOWER, TOO!
THERE'S ANOTHER BATHROOM IN BACK, MICK!
SSSSSSS!
WAAOH!
RUN!
WAIT! LET'S DON'T, MICK! THIS SKUNK WANTS US TA POLLER HER!
IS IT WHUT I SAID ABOUT LIKING ANIMALS?
YOU DO HAVE A WAY WITH 'EM, GOOFY! ANYWAY, WE SURE CAN'T GET ANY SMELLIER—
UNCLE ELVIS!
MMMPH!
ELVIS IS ALIVE?
WHAT'S THAT LOWDOWN VARMINT REX RAWHIDE UP TO? HE TIED ME UP HERE 'CAUSE I WOULDN'T SELL HIM MY RANCH!
GASP!


HE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET US TO DRIVE THE SKUNKS TO MARKET!
TH' IDJIT! YOU CAIN'T DRIVE SKUNKS TA MARKET! IF'N YOU TRY, YUH'LL STAMPEDE 'EM THROUGH TH' TOWN!
TH' LAWSUITS RESULTIN' WOULD BANKRUPT MUH RANCH! WHY WOULD ANYBODY WANT TA DO THAT?
BECAUSE THEN THE RANCH WOULD BELONG TO THE MORTGAGE HOLDER! AND THAT WOULD BE ME!
!
!
AH BOUGHT TH' MORTGAGE FROM TH' BANK AFTER TYIN' YUH UP YESTERDAY, ELVIS! IT WAS TH' ONLY WAY, SINCE YOU WOULDN'T SELL!
THEN YER NEPHEW AND TH' MOUSE SHOWED UP! PITY I COULDN'T GET RID OF 'EM!
BUT— WHY TAKE OVER THE RANCH, REX? WHAT'S IT WORTH?
NOT MUCH...BUT TH' OIL UNDERNEATH IS WORTH PLENTY! I KNOW ABOUT A SECRET GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHOWIN' THAT THIS LAND'S WORTH MILLIONS—
AN' NOW, AH'M GONNA DO WHUT AH SHOULDA DONE FIRST!


IDJIT! I'VE KNOWN ABOUT THET OIL FER YEARS!
IT'S WORTHLESS, 'CAUSE IT'S CONTAMINATED WITH SKUNK STINK!
WHA...?!
IN THE NICK OF TIME—
BLAM!
AND SO—
I'LL GO CALL THUH SHERIFF!
NO, NEPHEW! JAIL'S TOO GOOD FER TH' LIKES O' REX RAWHIDE!
MR. RAWHIDE WANTED TUH STAMPEDE Y'ALL THROUGH TOWN, GIRL!
CHIT!
SQEEK!
OH? YOU KNOW WHUT TA DO, HUH?
WHERE'S THAT SKUNK GOING?
TA ARRANGE THAT STAMPEDE!
HHUHH?!
GUESS I WON'T CALL THUH SHERIFF, AFTER ALL!
NAH! WE'D BE WASTING TIME! THIS "STAMPEDE" IS KINDA ORDERLY AS STAMPEDES GO!
SQUUUUUUSH!
AAAAAARGH! STOP! BLECH! MAKE 'EM STOP! MAKE 'EM STOP!
SQUUUUUUSH!
SQUUUUUUSH!

MORE Disney excitement TO COME!





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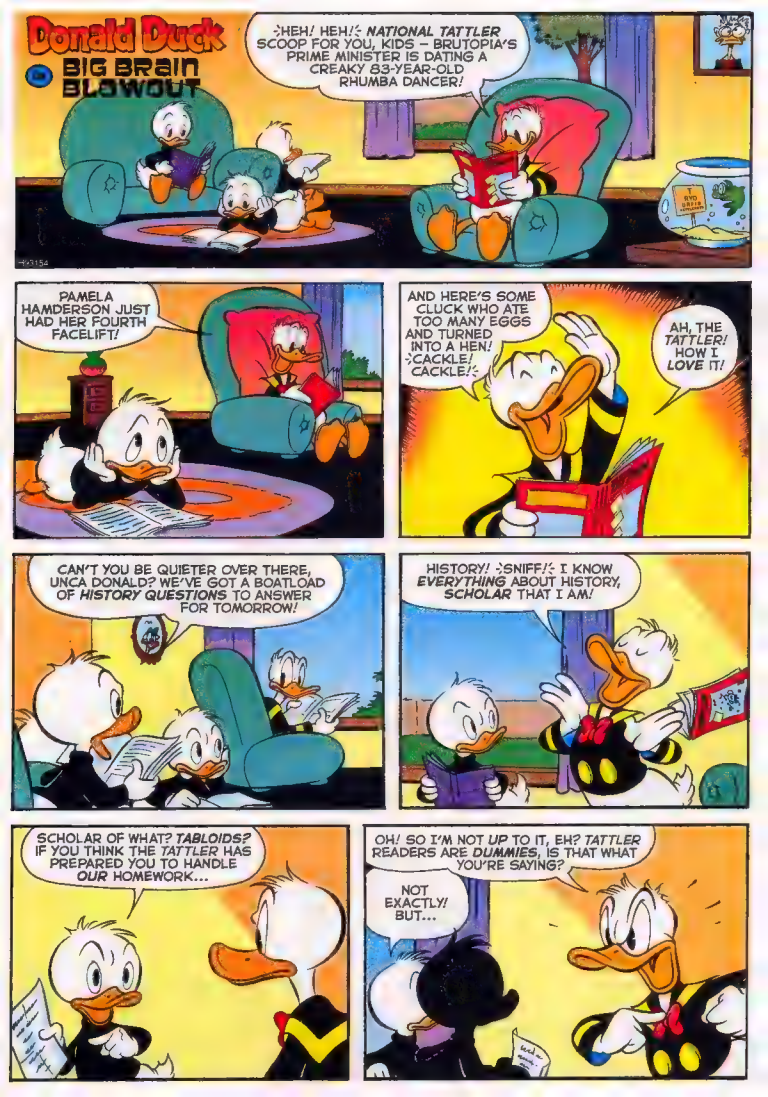
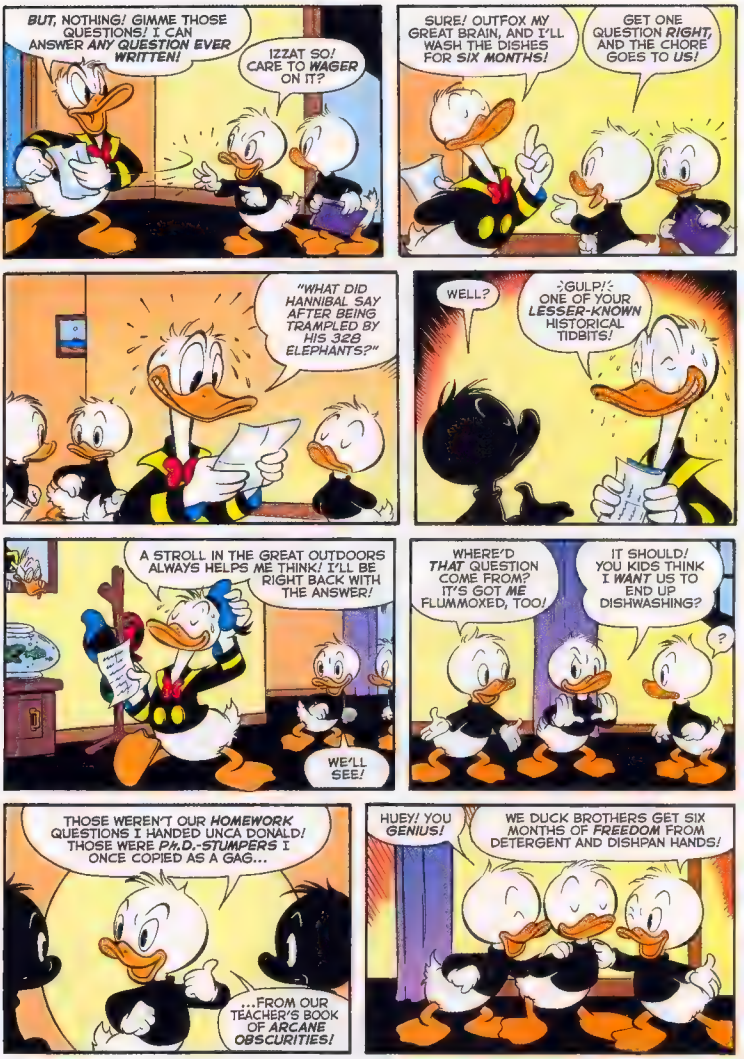
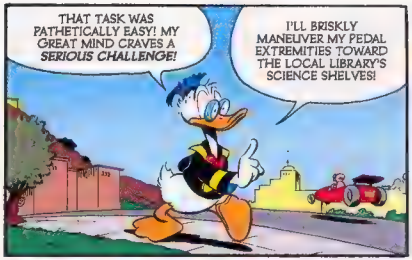

Donald Duck
BIG BRAIN BLOWOUT
:HEH! HEH!: NATIONAL TATTLER SCOOP FOR YOU, KIDS – BRUTOPIA'S PRIME MINISTER IS DATING A CREAKY 83-YEAR-OLD RHUMBA DANCER!
PAMELA HAMDERSON JUST HAD HER FOURTH FACELIFT!
AND HERE'S SOME CLUCK WHO ATE TOO MANY EGGS AND TURNED INTO A HEN! :CACKLE! CACKLE!:
AH, THE TATTLER! HOW I LOVE IT!
CAN'T YOU BE QUIETER OVER THERE, UNCA DONALD? WE'VE GOT A BOATLOAD OF HISTORY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FOR TOMORROW!
HISTORY! :SNIFF!: I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HISTORY, SCHOLAR THAT I AM!
SCHOLAR OF WHAT? TABLOIDS? IF YOU THINK THE TATTLER HAS PREPARED YOU TO HANDLE OUR HOMEWORK...
OH! SO I'M NOT UP TO IT, EH? TATTLER READERS ARE DUMMIES, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
NOT EXACTLY! BUT...

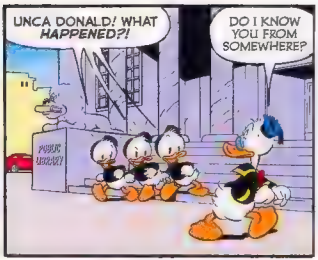

BUT, NOTHING! GIMME THOSE QUESTIONS! I CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTION EVER WRITTEN!
IZZAT SO! CARE TO WAGER ON IT?
SURE! OUTFOX MY GREAT BRAIN, AND I'LL WASH THE DISHES FOR SIX MONTHS!
GET ONE QUESTION RIGHT, AND THE CHORE GOES TO US!
"WHAT DID HANNIBAL SAY AFTER BEING TRAMPLED BY HIS 328 ELEPHANTS?"
WELL?
:GULP!: ONE OF YOUR LESSER-KNOWN HISTORICAL TIDBITS!
A STROLL IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS ALWAYS HELPS ME THINK! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK WITH THE ANSWER!
WE'LL SEE!
WHERE'D THAT QUESTION COME FROM? IT'S GOT ME FLUMMOXED, TOO!
IT SHOULD! YOU KIDS THINK I WANT US TO END UP DISHWASHING?
?
THOSE WEREN'T OUR HOMEWORK QUESTIONS I HANDED UNCA DONALD! THOSE WERE P.H.D.-STUMPERS I ONCE COPIED AS A GAG...
...FROM OUR TEACHER'S BOOK OF ARCANE OBSCURITIES!
HUEY! YOU GENIUS!
WE DUCK BROTHERS GET SIX MONTHS OF FREEDOM FROM DETERGENT AND DISHPAN HANDS!

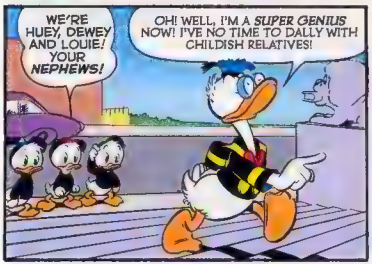
HANNIBAL! ATHLETE, LAWYER, OR SLIDE TROMBONIST?
:GULP!: THE KIDS MUST BE FARTHER ALONG IN SCHOOL THAN I EVER IMAGINED!
DRINK PEP
BUT IF I DON'T DOPE OUT THE RIGHT ANSWER QUICK, I'LL BE SCRUBBING POTS TILL MY ARM WEARS OFF AT THE ELBOW!
SCREWBALL SQUARE
OR WILL I? SAY!
GOT A QUESTION?
PROFESSOR MARCUS MEATHEAD'S ELECTRONIC BRAIN HAS THE ANSWERS!
(PAT. NO. 18 356 090)
HERE'S WHERE ALL OF MY PROBLEMS GET BLITZED!
DRRING!
MORNING, SIR! I'D LIKE TO···:
LOOK NO FOITHER! :YAK! YAK!:
YOUR HEAD'S D' RIGHT SIZE! POIFECT... :YAK!: ...FOR MY COMPUTER!
MY HEAD?!
HUH?!
SEE, MY ELECTRONIC BRAIN HAS TA READ YER THOUGHTWAVES T'ROO DIS HELMET I'M GONNA MAKE YEZ WEAR!
OHO!
FITS LIKE A GLOVE, SON! AN' I'LL GIVE YEZ ITS SOIVICES FREE, ON ACCOUNT O' I JUST FINISHED BUILDIN' IT AN' YER ME FOIST CUSTOMER!
MAC, IT'S AN HONOR!

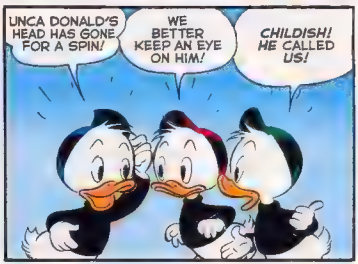
THINK OF A QUESTION– *ANY* QUESTION! D' GADGET WILL READ YER MIND AN' DISPLAY D' ANSWER...
...UP HERE!
ONE FER D' MONEY... *TWO* FER D' SHOW... :YAK! YAK!: NOW LET'S SEE WHAT D' COMPUTER HAS TA SAY!
RIGHTO!
JUMP CLEAR!
CLICK!
JUMP CLEAR!
SHUDDER!
FIZZZ
FIZZZ!
TILT!
BOOM!
HEAVENS TA BETSY SOMETHIN'S *WRONG* AN' MY ELECTRONIC BRAIN'S *BUSTED! KAPUT,* EVEN!
XP
THE ATOMIC NUMBER OF THALLIUM IS 81!
SO WHERE'S MY *FILES?...* :UH-OH!:
DEY BEEN *ABSORBED* BY YER *BRAIN,* DUCK! ALL D' FACTOIDS MY COMPUTER EVER KNEW!
$\sqrt{x^2+2-x}$
NOW *YOU'RE* BRAINY, *IT'S* BROKEN AN' BRAINLESS, AN' I GOTTA *REPROGRAM* IT! *SHEESH!*
PI (π) IS AN IRRATIONAL NUMBER THAT BEGINS 3.1415926535...
SEA-HORSES DON'T EAT HAY!

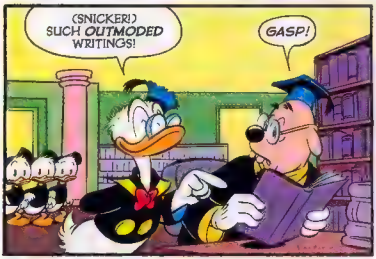
POOR FELLOW! OBVIOUSLY THE VICTIM OF AN OVERSENSITIVE PSYCHE!
A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE!
INTERESTING CASE!
ALEXANDER THE GREAT WAS A HEADSTRONG MIDGET UNDER FOUR FEET TALL!
I KNOW EVERYTHING NOW! I AM A GENIUS, MASTERED BY THE INSATIABLE DRIVE TO ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS WITH MY MENTAL GIFTS!
4PbN + 4C2H5Cl → (C2H5)4 Pb + 4NaCl + 3Pb
CORRECT!
MEANWHILE!
WHO RULED ENGLAND BETWEEN WILLIAM I AND WILLIAM III?
:GULP!: IT'S NOT IN OUR NOTES!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TURN THE LIBRARY UPSIDE DOWN FOR ANSWERS! ANSWERS! ANSWERS!
UP THE STREET!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE, BOY?
BWAAAAAAH! MY SKATES ARE BUSTED!
(SNIFF!) A PRIMITIVE SYSTEM OF ENERGY TRANSFER BASED ON BALL BEARINGS! BUILT-IN OBSOLESCENCE IN ACTION!
TAKE ME TO A GARAGE, CHILD!
SNIF!
HO HUM!
POK! POK!
MOMENTS LATER!
JET ENGINES! TOO COOL! THANKS, MISTER!
VROOM!
MY PLEASURE, YOUNG MAN!

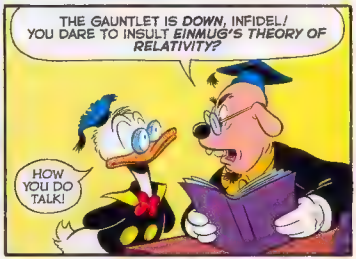

THAT TASK WAS PATHETICALLY EASY! MY GREAT MIND CRAVES A SERIOUS CHALLENGE!
I'LL BRISKLY MANEUVER MY PEDAL EXTREMITIES TOWARD THE LOCAL LIBRARY'S SCIENCE SHELVES!

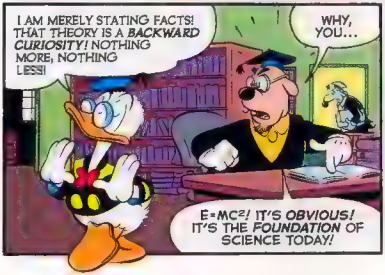

UNCA DONALD! WHAT HAPPENED?!
DO I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE?
PUBLIC LIBRARY

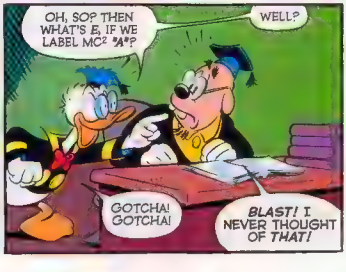

WE'RE HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE! YOUR NEPHEWS!
OH! WELL, I'M A SUPER GENIUS NOW! I'VE NO TIME TO DALLY WITH CHILDISH RELATIVES!

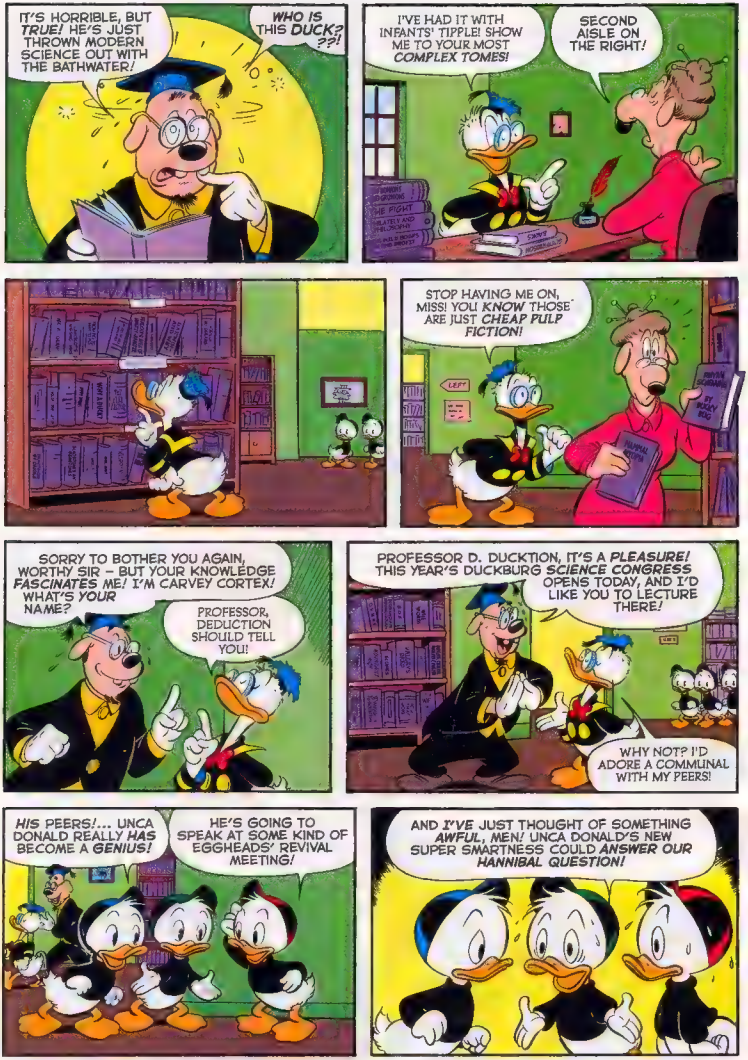

UNCA DONALD'S HEAD HAS GONE FOR A SPIN!
WE BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!
CHILDISH! HE CALLED US!


(SNICKER!) SUCH OUTMODED WRITINGS!
GASP!

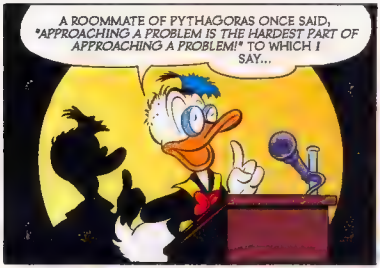

THE GAUNTLET IS DOWN, INFIDEL! YOU DARE TO INSULT EINMUG'S THEORY OF RELATIVITY?
HOW YOU DO TALK!

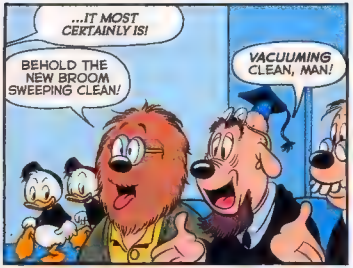

I AM MERELY STATING FACTS! THAT THEORY IS A BACKWARD CURIOSITY! NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS!
WHY, YOU...
E=MC²! IT'S OBVIOUS! IT'S THE FOUNDATION OF SCIENCE TODAY!


OH, SO? THEN WHAT'S E, IF WE LABEL MC² "A"?
WELL?
GOTCHA! GOTCHA!
BLAST! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!

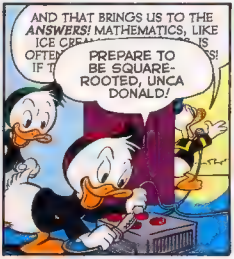

IT'S HORRIBLE, BUT TRUE! HE'S JUST THROWN MODERN SCIENCE OUT WITH THE BATHWATER!
WHO IS THIS DUCK? ??!
I'VE HAD IT WITH INFANTS' TIPPLE! SHOW ME TO YOUR MOST COMPLEX TOMES!
SECOND AISLE ON THE RIGHT!
STOP HAVING ME ON, MISS! YOU KNOW THOSE ARE JUST CHEAP PULP FICTION!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN, WORTHY SIR – BUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE FASCINATES ME! I'M CARVEY CORTEX! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
PROFESSOR, DEDUCTION SHOULD TELL YOU!
PROFESSOR D. DUCKTION, IT'S A PLEASURE! THIS YEAR'S DUCKBURG SCIENCE CONGRESS OPENS TODAY, AND I'D LIKE YOU TO LECTURE THERE!
WHY NOT? I'D ADORE A COMMUNAL WITH MY PEERS!
HIS PEERS!... UNCA DONALD REALLY HAS BECOME A GENIUS!
HE'S GOING TO SPEAK AT SOME KIND OF EGGHEADS' REVIVAL MEETING!
AND I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING AWFUL, MEN! UNCA DONALD'S NEW SUPER SMARTNESS COULD ANSWER OUR HANNIBAL QUESTION!

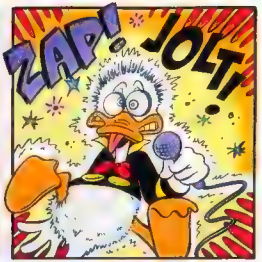
MEN, IF WE DON'T KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING...
...SIX MONTHS OF SPONGES AND SOAP SCUM ARE OURS!
:GROAN!:
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
:GROAN!: MY LIFE'S WOIK RUINED... WRECKED, EVEN! AN' ALL T'ANKS TA THAT SAILOR-SUITED DUCK!
:EH?:
GURGLE
SAILOR SUIT? DUCK? LIFE'S WORK RUINED? MUST BE UNCA DONALD!
'FRAID IT WAS! :YAK! YAK!: CHILL A SEC AN' I'LL GIVE YEZ D' LOWDOWN!
PROF. MEATHEAD RELATES HIS SORRY STORY!
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS UNCA DONALD BEING A GENIUS! BUT HOW DO WE GET THE COMPUTERIZED KNOWLEDGE OUT OF HIS HEAD?
EASY ONE, KIDS...
A MILD EE-LECTRIC SHOCK SHOULD MAKE YER UNK DISCHARGE D' DATA! YEZ CAN USE MY SAFETY BURGLAR STUNNER TA SHOCK HIM WIDOUT HARMIN' HIM!
WOW!
OFF TO PICK UP THE BURGLAR STUNNER! WE DON'T HAVE A SECOND TO LOSE!
BE WITH YEZ SOON AS I FINISH DIS SODA!
SHORTLY!
FELLOW MEN AND WOMEN OF SCIENCE! I GIVE YOU PROFESSOR D. DUCKTION, THE MAN WHO HAS PROVEN THAT RELATIVITY IS ALL RELATIVE!
HEAR! HEAR!
HUZZAH!
BINGO! JUST IN TIME!
THIS GUY DUCKTION IS THE LIVING END! THEY SAY HE'S MAKING ALL OF QUANTUM MECHANICS IRRELEVANT!
THINK OF ALL THE RESEARCHERS WE CAN SACK! PROGRESS MARCHES ON!
GAWSH!

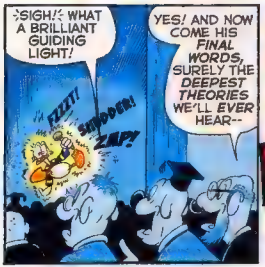

A ROOMMATE OF PYTHAGORAS ONCE SAID, "APPROACHING A PROBLEM IS THE HARDEST PART OF APPROACHING A PROBLEM!" TO WHICH I SAY...


...IT MOST CERTAINLY IS!
BEHOLD THE NEW BROOM SWEEPING CLEAN!
VACUUMING CLEAN, MAN!

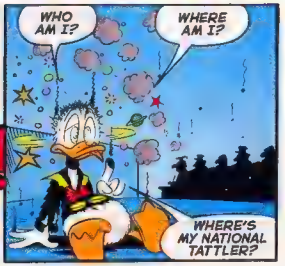
THE QUESTIONS WE ASK OURSELVES WHILE STUDYING AGE-OLD CONUNDRUMS--
THEY MUST BE ANSWERED!

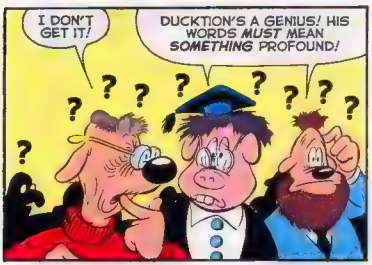

AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE ANSWERS! MATHEMATICS, LIKE ICE CREA... IS OFTEN... IF T...
PREPARE TO BE SQUARE-ROOTED, UNCA DONALD!


ZAP!
JOLT!


SIGH!... WHAT A BRILLIANT GUIDING LIGHT!
YES! AND NOW COME HIS FINAL WORDS, SURELY THE DEEPEST THEORIES WE'LL EVER HEAR--
FZZZT!
SHUDDER!
ZAP!

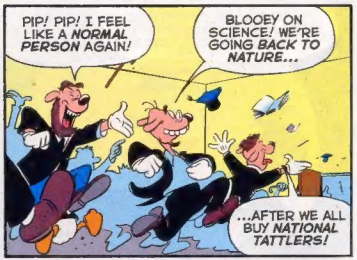
FZZZT...
SHUDDER!
BOOM!

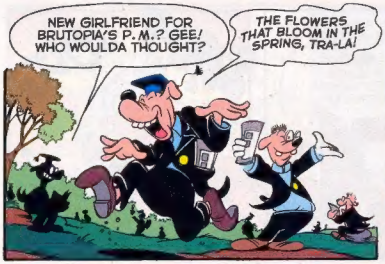

WHO AM I?
WHERE AM I?
WHERE'S MY NATIONAL TATTLER?

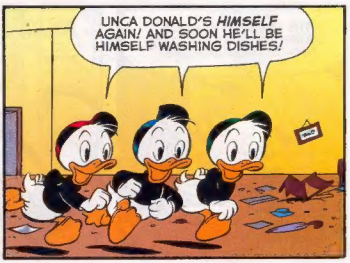

I DON'T GET IT!
DUCKTION'S A GENIUS! HIS WORDS MUST MEAN SOMETHING PROFOUND!

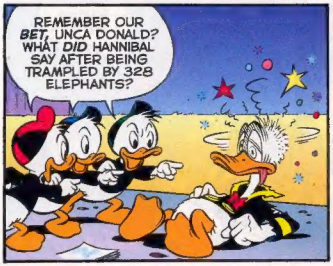
I HAVE IT! HE'S TELLING US TO STOP STUDYING DEEP MYSTERIES AND FIND TRUTH IN SIMPLE QUESTIONS!
OF COURSE!
HEAR! HEAR!

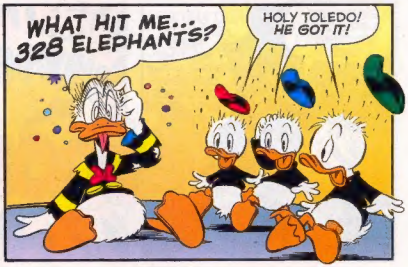
WHO ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE? WHERE ARE OUR NATIONAL TATTLERS?

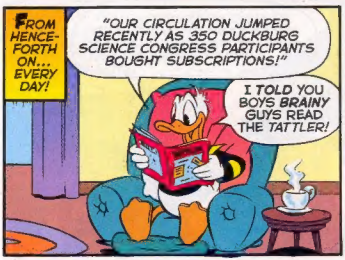

PIP! PIP! I FEEL LIKE A NORMAL PERSON AGAIN!
BLOOEY ON SCIENCE! WE'RE GOING BACK TO NATURE...
...AFTER WE ALL BUY NATIONAL TATTLERS!

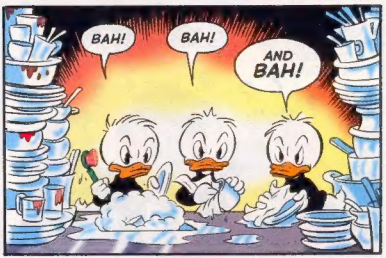

NEW GIRLFRIEND FOR BRUTOPIA'S P. M.? GEE! WHO WOULDA THOUGHT?
THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING, TRA-LA!


UNCA DONALD'S HIMSELF AGAIN! AND SOON HE'LL BE HIMSELF WASHING DISHES!


REMEMBER OUR BET, UNCA DONALD? WHAT DID HANNIBAL SAY AFTER BEING TRAMPLED BY 328 ELEPHANTS?


WHAT HIT ME... 328 ELEPHANTS?
HOLY TOLEDO! HE GOT IT!


FROM HENCE-FORTH ON... EVERY DAY!
"OUR CIRCULATION JUMPED RECENTLY AS 350 DUCKBURG SCIENCE CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS BOUGHT SUBSCRIPTIONS!"
I TOLD YOU BOYS BRAINY GUYS READ THE TATTLER!


BAH!
BAH!
AND BAH!

From your editorial this month, it sounds like you've been taking some heat over the science fiction and fantasy stories in *Mickey Mouse and Friends* and *Donald Duck and Friends*. I've been one of the people poking at the fantasy stories a bit—although just individual stories and not the whole genre.

But from *DDF* 318, I can kind of see the point of taking a break from science fiction, at least for a little while. The two main stories in this issue both concern wacky inventors and their dangerous inventions, and it got wearing reading one right after the other. There were obvious differences between the stories—Donald's inventor was temporarily insane, while Mickey's was just clumsy. Still, two inventors in the same issue doesn't make a great case for why there should be more science fiction stories.

That was especially true because your third story, "Burglar Alarm," was such a good earth-bound tale. I've had the exact same problem that Donald has in this story—a neighbor's burglar alarm blaring away while the neighbor was out for the day. I didn't go so far as to track the neighbor down or break into his house, as Donald does, but I can identify with his frustrated rage.

So maybe if you're taking some time off from the fantasy stories, Donald and Mickey can attend to some of our home-grown problems. I'm thinking of joining a down and out local soccer team with my identical twin brother... you wouldn't happen to have any stories about that lying around, would you?

—Danny Horn
via email

As I write this, it's summer vacation time and, generous employers that you are at Gemstone, you've given Donald and the boys a week off from "cover-gag duty" for DDF 318. No pranks, practical jokes, or one-upsmanship between these often opposing factions. Just a joyous ride down a water flume, with no brick walls, pointed objects, or incongruously slotted sharks or outsized octopi awaiting them at the other end. It's nice to see all four ducks just enjoying themselves on a cover for a change. After sixty-some odd years, I'd say they deserve it.

Of course, the fun is short-lived, as you've apparently declared it to be "Captured-by-a-Loony-Week" for the *...and Friends* titles. Over in *MMF* 267, Mickey and Pluto are imprisoned by the temporarily addled horror scribe Lupina Lupis and her adopted werewolf son. Here, Donald is enslaved by a mad, lightning-mutated version of his old science classmate, Wilfred Whirlwit.

Vicar truly outdoes himself in the transformation of Wilfred from lugubrious lab-rat to vengeful archfiend. Powerfully upswept hair that was once fallen and listless, formerly lifeless eyes that virtually crackle with the power of lightning, sinister fangs where even ordinary teeth failed to show, and a magnificently maniacal manner replacing a slumping and defeated posture all illustrate how the right artist can carry a story to its fullest potential.

Also done *so* well that it nearly escapes notice is the lettering by Willie Schubert, one of the best modern-day practitioners of the letterer's craft. Schubert's use of a "first-letter-of-a-caption-encased-in-a-tilted-circle" (sorry if it sounds awkward, but I can think of no better way to describe it!) just adds to the visual delight of the stories found herein. Just another "little thing" that means a lot.

Once again, another fine issue for which the entire crew deserves a "joyous ride down a water flume" as well.

—Joe Torcivia
via email

I just want to start off by saying that it's great to hear that classic stories are going to be appearing in your *and Friends* series starting in October. Good for you! There are quite a few Barks stories I'd like to see in future issues, such as "The Mummy's Ring," "Frozen Gold," and "Voodoo Hoodoo" (arguably, these have been printed in Gladstone issues or albums, but the regular books from the 1986-1990 run were cheap in quality, and the albums are too flimsy for repeated reading).

While DD is the better of the two *and Friends* titles, I can't help but feel that the lead stories most likely would be just a back-up story in a *WDC&S* issue. "The Demon Genius" was pretty good, but it doesn't pack enough of a punch to be a lead story.

Another common sighting is that the middle Mickey story in *DDF* is usually better than the Mickey stories in his own title! "No Thanks for the Buggy Ride" could've been better if longer, but it'd still be a "hero in a giant world" story.

The highlight of *DDF* 318 though was "Burglar Alarm," a very funny story that could've been even better if it was a 10-page story, where it could've had more gags.

—Thad Komorowski
via email

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